



SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
SECTION *PROPAGATING MATERIAL AND PLANTS OF FRUIT GENERA AND SPECIES*
ON 18 FEBRUARY 2015

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Chairperson: Ms Diana Charels

Section A Information and/or discussion

A.1. Draft questionnaire on the state of play of national variety registers of fruit genera and species and registers of suppliers.

The Commission presented a draft questionnaire aiming to investigate whether Member States already have a national register of varieties and a register of suppliers. Member States welcomed the initiative. The following issues were raised: options for variety registration, relationship between national register and suppliers' list of varieties, and registration with an officially recognised description of varieties marketed in the period 2012 – 2016. Commission promised to look into these issues and inform the Member States. Member States agreed on the addition of information on varieties with a national and Community plant variety right to the EU register of varieties. The Commission will clarify under which format such information could be included in the EU register of varieties. The Commission will finalise the questionnaire by 27 February 2015. Member States are expected to submit the completed questionnaire by 15 April 2015.

A.2. Presentation of the EU list of Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) as example for the creation of a common list of varieties of fruit genera and species.

The Commission gave a demonstration of the database on forest reproductive material. In this semantic approach Member States will locally publish their data and a link will be established with DG SANTE's repository resulting in an update of DG SANTE's website with Member States' data. The Netherlands, France and possibly Germany volunteered to participate in a pilot project testing the semantic approach on a database of fruit plant varieties. The Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) expressed interest to participate both in the pilot project on fruit varieties and the semantic database of tree species to produce forest reproductive material.

A.3. Presentation on the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) Variety Finder database with a variety denomination checking tool.

A representative from CPVO presented CPVO's Variety Finder database. CPVO ensures that information regarding the official registration of varieties in the EU, Community and National Plant Variety Right and authorisation for marketing is regularly updated. It is currently not possible for the denomination of varieties of fruit genera and species to refer to Regulation (EC) No 637/2009 establishing implementing rules as to the suitability of the denominations of varieties of agricultural plant species and vegetable species. However, CPVO applies the rules of the aforementioned Regulation to check the denomination of fruit varieties for variety protection. In the fruit sector and according to The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants' (UPOV) rules, denominations are checked at Genus level.

Several issues were raised regarding the denomination rules for old varieties, Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications and trademarks. CPVO's representative explained that the rules of Regulation (EC) No 637/2009 do not apply to varieties known before 2000. All data regarding Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications are entered in CPVO's database along with other data. Trade names may be used for the marketing of varieties but are not registered by CPVO since such names do not identify the variety because the same trade name may be used for different varieties.

A.4. Exchange of views on the nomenclature of certain pests listed in Commission Implementing Directive 2014/98/EU regarding certification of plant propagating material and fruit plants.

The Commission presented a draft table containing an overview of pests for which comments on their nomenclature had been received from technical experts. Sometimes the name is referring to symptoms rather than pests. In general, Member States delegates agreed on keeping the name as listed in Directive 2014/98/EU because those names occur in the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization's (EPPO) certification schemes. Member States agreed that the Commission will update the overview table by 27 February and distribute it to Member States. The Commission asked Member States' experts to submit comments on the aforementioned table and on Annexes I to V of Commission Implementing Directive 2014/98/EU by 15 April 2015.

A.5. State of play of the revision of special requirements for the movement of plants for planting listed in Annex IV to Directive 2000/29/EC on harmful organisms.

The Commission informed Member States that the working document regarding the revision of Annex IV to Directive 2000/29/EC will be amended and presented again at the upcoming March meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed – Section Plant Health. Some Member States raised questions on the working document. The Commission asked Member States to submit their comments and questions in writing by 6 March 2015.

A.6. State of play of the Working group on the Annexes to Council Directive 2000/29/EC – Annex II, Part A, Section II – listing of harmful organisms.

The Commission presented the state of play of the above-mentioned IIAII Working group. Several questions were raised regarding the listing of Regulated Non Quarantine Pests (RNQPs) and establishment of corresponding thresholds under the new legislation and the voting of secondary legislation. The Commission replied that the new Plant Health proposal foresees listing of quarantine pests and RNQPs (quality pests) with corresponding thresholds under the Plant Health legislation. Thresholds will still be decided upon by experts from the Plant Reproductive Material sector. There should be a single Implementing Act containing all certification provisions: identity, health (RNQP, quarantine pest) and quality requirements including production, inspection, sampling and testing requirements. The Commission explained that the decision in which Standing Committee secondary legislation will be voted still needs to be taken but that it is of utmost importance that Member States' delegates from the Plant Reproductive Material and Plant Health sector communicate with each other. The Commission promised to check the status of *Citrus* vein enation woody gall. The organism was proposed for study by the IIAII Working group and its status needs to be clarified.

A.7. State of play of the proposal on the Official Controls Regulation.

The Commission recalled that the new Plant Health Regulation and the legislation on Plant Reproductive Material are part of the Official Controls Regulation. To a question on the way forward of the Official Controls Regulation in case the proposal on Plant Reproductive Material is withdrawn, the Commission replied that the Official Controls Regulation would then refer to all 12 Directives on the marketing of seeds and propagating material. A Member State delegate noted that the marketing Directives on agricultural species are outdated and would need to be amended before reference could be made to those Directives. Another Member State delegate commented that several Member States would like to exclude Directive 1999/105/EC on the marketing of forest reproductive material and the new Regulation on Organic Farming from the scope of the Official Controls Regulation.

A.8. DG SANTE event at Expo Milan on 14 July 2015: Conference on “Climate change and food security: challenges for plant health, plant breeding and genetic resources”.

The Commission informed Member States that on 14 July 2015 DG SANTE will organise a Conference at the World Expo in Milan around the Expo theme “Feeding the planet, Energy for Life”. The Commission presented the draft program of the conference.

A.9. Promotion of the launch of the EU harmonised certification system.

A Member State delegate suggested activities to promote the EU certification system because it is important to make the fruit plant sector aware of the new harmonised system for the certification of fruit propagating material and fruit plants at EU level. It was proposed to present the EU harmonised certification system at the 2017 meeting of Fruit Logistica, which takes place in the first quarter of each year in Berlin, Germany. It comprises each single sector of the fresh produce fruit and vegetable sector and also covers cultivation systems.

A.10. Miscellaneous.

The Commission asked for volunteers to present at the next meeting their approach of the implementation of all three Commission Implementing Directives on registration of suppliers and varieties of fruit genera and species, labelling and certification of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants, and received a positive reply from The Netherlands and France.

The Commission communicated the draft planning and agenda of the next meeting.

The Italian delegate asked whether the next meeting could be spread over two days because of the great number of points to be addressed. The Commission promised to look into this matter.